

# **Alaska**

## **Turf and Ornamental Pest Control**

### **Supplemental Information**



## **Category Four**

## **ALASKA TURF & ORNAMENTAL PEST CONTROL SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DECEMBER , 2010**

In general, applicators who apply pesticides to property other than their own, or act as a pesticide consultant must obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Pesticide Program. Applicators who apply restricted-use pesticides must also be certified.

Applicators who use pesticides to control **outdoor pests on landscaping, ornamental plants, lawns, or turf** must be certified by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) in the Turf and Ornamental Pest Control Category (Category Four). Examples of applicators who should be certified in this category include groundskeepers who use weed and feed products on a golf course, landscaping companies who apply fungus control to ornamental plants, or tree care companies that injects trees to control aphids.

The Washington State University *Turf and Ornamental Weed Management Principals Manual* and *Introduction to Insect and Disease Management Manual* contain the majority of information needed to successfully complete the written examination to obtain certification in Category Four in Alaska. However, regulations and requirements are different in Alaska, as are some environmental conditions and some types of pests. This supplemental manual provides additional information that is specific to Alaska.

You will also need to have a working knowledge of the information covered in the following documents and manuals:

- National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual; and
- State of Alaska Pesticide Regulations in Title 18, Chapter 90 of the Alaska Administrative Code (18 AAC 90).

### **CALCULATIONS**

Precise and accurate application is important for every pesticide application. Strong math skills, including the ability to calculate speed, volume, odd shaped areas, mixing ratios, rates of application, etc. will be necessary to successfully pass examination for this category.

### **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND POSTING**

A public place is defined as plazas, parks, public sports fields, government offices or grounds (except those with restricted access), and common areas of apartment buildings or multi-family dwellings.

Before applying pesticides to any public place, applicators must first post written notice informing the public when pesticides will be applied, and how long they must remain out of the area.

Signs must meet the following requirements:

- posted at each access point,
- posted prior to application of pesticide,
- remain in place at least 24 hours, or the re-entry period specified on the label, whichever is longer,
- at least 8 ½ by 11 inches in size,

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- located between three feet and four feet above the ground, except if posted outdoors on a stake, at least 12 inches off the ground,
- include information about the date and time of application, contact name and phone number, and how long public must remain out of the area.

Record of the application, including all information required on the sign, must be maintained for at least two years after application.

Public notification requirements do not apply to the use of anti-microbial pesticides, rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations, or ready to use pastes, foams, or gels.

Regulations related to public notification and posting requirements may be found at Title 18, Chapter 90, Section 630 of the Alaska Administrative Code. Please review the specific details of these requirements in the Pesticide Regulations.

### **ALASKA RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS**

State regulations require certified applicators to keep detailed records of ALL commercial or contract pesticide applications. Records must be kept for a minimum of two years and must contain the following information for both restricted use pesticides (RUPs) and general use pesticides (GUPs):

- Name of applicator
- Date of application
- Pesticide product name
- EPA registration number
- Location/address of area treated
- Site (e.g. front yard, living room, etc.) or specific crop to which pesticide was applied
- Target pests
- Amount applied - rate, dilution, and total amount. (*Pounds released for fumigants*)
- *Fumigants only* - temperature and duration of exposure period

The following additional information must be recorded for all RUP applications:

- Name and address of customer where pesticide was applied
- Time of application
- Percentage of active ingredient
- Disposal information for excess container, pesticide, rinsate, including disposal method, date, location.

### **ALASKA PESTICIDE USE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

By state law, an ADEC Pesticide Use Permit is required before you may apply pesticide under the following circumstances:

- **To any state owned or leased right of way, regardless of the size of application area or the pesticide to be applied.**

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- **To any state owned or leased land that is one acre or more in area.**
- **To any water body or wetlands, including creeks, drainages, streams, ponds, rivers and swamps, regardless of who owns the surrounding lands.**
- To more than one property.
- Aerial application (by airplane or helicopter).

Regulations related to permit requirements may be found at 18 AAC 90, Sections 500-540. The permitting process is rigorous, and takes a minimum of 100 days to complete. Applicators should plan well in advance to ensure that a valid Pesticide Use Permit can be obtained for the planned pesticide application.

The permitting process requires detailed information about the specifics of the proposed pesticide use. Once all the required information is submitted, the application is opened to a public comment and review period, and may require a public hearing. Once the public review period is complete, ADEC will conduct a thorough review of the proposed project and determine whether or not to issue a Pesticide Use Permit. If a Permit is issued, it does not become valid until after a 40 day waiting period, to allow time for the public to appeal the decision.

Pesticide use often raises concern in local communities, and may become contentious. Public resistance to the proposed pesticide use may impact your ability to obtain a Pesticide Use Permit.

Failure to obtain a permit is a violation of state law, and can result in significant penalties under Alaska Statute 46.03.760. It is the responsibility of the pesticide applicator to ensure that all required permits and approvals are in place before applying pesticides.

### **ALASKA SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT VARIOUS CONTROLS**

**Biological controls** - Insects, animals, or pathogens can sometimes be used to control pests. However, there are no biological controls recommended for use in Alaska.

**Pre-plant and pre-emergent herbicides** - Timing of application of some pre-emergent herbicides in Alaska can be tricky, as they must be applied during the small window after soil is no longer frozen, but before seeds begin germination.

**Residual herbicides** - Herbicides become inactive in the environment in several ways. They may be broken down into component parts by sunlight (**photodegradation**), micro-organisms such as bacteria and fungus (**microbial degradation**), or natural chemical reactions in soil such as oxidation, reduction, or hydrolysis (**chemical degradation**). They may be also taken up by plants and metabolized or neutralized. Many of these processes slow or cease during the long winter season in Alaska. As a result, some herbicides may persist in the environment longer than expected.

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**PORTIONS OF THE WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY MANUALS TO DISREGARD**

You may disregard pages 43-44, of the Washington State University *Turf and Ornamental Weed Management Principals Manual*, which includes information about Washington State regulations. These regulations do not apply in Alaska.

## **Before Using Any Pesticide**

# **STOP**

**All pesticides can be harmful to health  
and environment if misused.**

**Read the label  
carefully. Use only  
as directed.**